

In re Application of:
Foster et al.
Application No.: 10/552,390
Filed: May 30, 2006
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PATENT
Atty Docket No.: MAP1130

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 1 and 10 as found in the listing of claims

Please cancel claims 13-26 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 27-31.

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for dissolving or suspending a substance in a solvent comprising:

an outer chamber for containing a dense gas, wherein the outer chamber is a pressure vessel;

an inlet for supplying dense gas as a solvent;

a porous chamber within the outer chamber for containing a substance for dissolution or suspension with the solvent, the porous chamber having a wall which allows passage of solvent and the substance dissolved or suspended in the solvent, and

an outlet for removing solvent and solution and/or dispersion from the outer chamber and a turbulence means for creating turbulence within the porous chamber.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the inlet in the outer chamber supplies solvent directly to a mouth communicating with the porous chamber.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the inlet is in the wall of the outer chamber providing dense gas to the region between the porous chamber and the outer chamber.

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4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the inlet supplies solvent to the porous chamber and the region between the porous chamber and the outer chamber.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the porous chamber is further provided with a longitudinally extending shaft communicating with the solvent inlet of the porous chamber.
6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the shaft is porous or perforated.
7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the substance is in the porous chamber in the region around the longitudinally extending shaft and the solvent enters the porous chamber through the shaft.
8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the turbulence creating means includes a drive means to drive a magnetic stirrer within the porous chamber.
9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the turbulence creating means includes a drive means to rotate the porous chamber within the outer chamber.
10. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the turbulence creating means further comprises baffles within extending from the inner surface of the outer chamber in the region between the porous chamber and the wall of the outer chamber.
11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the porous chamber is provided with a plug to hold the substance against the base of the inner chamber.
12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the plug is a planar element abutting the sides of the inner chamber and is held against the substance by a resilient biasing means.

Claims 13-26. (Canceled)

26. (Original) A method of treatment of the subject comprising the steps of administering to the subject an affective amount of particles of a biologically active substance produced using the apparatus of claim 1.

27. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the pressure vessel provides a pressure between about 5 to 200 bar.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the pressure vessel is an autoclave.

29. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the autoclave provides a temperature of between 5°C and 45°C.

30. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the autoclave provides a pressure between about 5 to 200 bar.

31. (New) An apparatus for dissolving or suspending a substance in a solvent comprising:

an outer chamber for containing a dense gas;

an inlet for supplying dense gas as a solvent;

a porous chamber within the outer chamber for containing a substance for dissolution or suspension with the solvent, the porous chamber comprising a wall allowing passage of solvent and the substance dissolved or suspended in the solvent, and a longitudinally extending shaft in fluid communication with the inlet, wherein the shaft is porous along the length of the shaft; and

an outlet for removing solvent and solution and/or dispersion from the outer chamber and a turbulence means for creating turbulence within the porous chamber.